



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

**Karl L. Aschenbach**

Application No. 10/693,422

Filed: October 24, 2003

For: **DOWNCOMER FOR MARINE VESSELS**

Group Art Unit: 1724

Examiner:

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced application are the following:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- ☒ Form PTO-1449 (with copies of 4 cited references)
- ☒ Return-receipt postcard

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with filing of these papers, or credit overpayment, to Account No. 19-4455. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

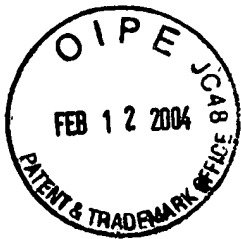
Respectfully submitted,

**Karl L. Aschenbach**

By: Sandra K. Szczerbicki  
Sandra K. Szczerbicki  
Registration No. 53,666

February 9, 2004

STOEL RIVES LLP  
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Customer No. 3528



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

1. Pursuant to his duty of disclosure, applicant presents for the Examiner's consideration the documents listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

☒ Copies of the documents are enclosed.

☐ Copies (a copy) of document(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are (is) not enclosed because (1) they are already of record in U.S. Pat. Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, on which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120, and (2) any information disclosure statement filed in the prosecution of U.S. Pat. Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, complies with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.98(a) and (c). (37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).)

2. ☐ Applicant(s) draw(s) the Examiner's attention to the enclosed copy of copending U.S. Pat. Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, which is cited in this application.

3. This information disclosure statement is being submitted:


a. ☒ Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114. (No statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) is required.)

b. ☐ After the period set forth in paragraph 1a, but before the mailing date of either a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. (Check box i. or ii.)

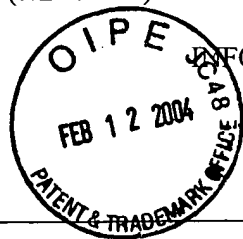
- i. ☐ A \$180.00 information disclosure statement submission fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
  - ii. ☐ A statement specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below.
  - c. ☐ After the mailing date of a final action or notice of allowance and on or before payment of an issue fee. A statement specified by 37 CFR 1.97(e) is set forth below. Enclosed is a \$180.00 information disclosure statement processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).
4. ☐ The attorney or agent signing below hereby states that:
- ☐ each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement; or
  - ☐ no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
5. ☐ Applicants set forth below concise explanations of the relevance of each document not in the English language and/or selected documents in the English language.

Respectfully submitted,

**Karl L. Aschenbach**

By:   
Sandra K. Szczerbicki  
Registration No. 53,666

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FORM PTO-1449  
(REV. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
16991/3:1APPLICATION NO.  
10/693,422INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Uses several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT  
Karl L. AschenbachFILING DATE  
October 24, 2003

GROUP 1724

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AA	"Fluid Transport Equipment," <i>Encyclopedia of Fluid Mechanics</i> , Volume 2, Dynamics of Single-Fluid Flows and Mixing, pp. 1194, 1197, and 1200-1203.
AB	"Reactors and Industrial Applications," <i>Encyclopedia of Fluid Mechanics</i> , Volume 3, Gas-Liquid Flows; pp. 1478, 1482, and 1487.
AC	Simon X. Xu, Lowell Pless; "Distillation tower flooding—more complex than you think: while other "predictive" methods tell too little, too late, gamma scans indicate where and why flooding occurs—invaluable insight for troubleshooters," from <i>Chemical Engineering</i> , 6/1/02, ISSN: 0009-2460; Volume 109; Issue 6; pages: 8full text.
AD	Michael W. Biddulph, Christopher P. Thomas, Alan C. Burton, "Don't Downplay Downcomer Design," from <i>Chemical Engineering Progress</i> , December 1993, pp. 56-60.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.